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"BEST HIGH SCHOOLS"**



1625 Deep Lake Road * Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 * Fax 847-395-7553 * www.chsd117.org

1-7-2022

Community High School District 117 Families,

Welcome Back! I'm sure everyone hoped we would have COVID-19 behind us by this time and certainly never envisioned a third calendar year impacted by a global pandemic. While the latest COVID-19 surge in infections is discouraging, the District is committed to its goal of providing in-person learning in a healthy and safe environment while minimizing interruptions.

There are many news reports of schools and districts that are forced to close or significantly change their regular schedule due to the current high COVID-19 infections impacting staff and limiting their ability to deliver in-person instruction. Similarly, the growing number of students that are becoming infected with COVID-19 is concerning. This situation unfortunately may become a reality for District 117 as many staff are currently out due to COVID - 19 related issues.

The District's goal continues to be in-person learning but, depending on the situation, we may need a day of remote learning, or we may need more. While remote learning would be a last option, I want District families to be aware of this possibility. Should the District need to take an adaptive pause to allow time for the District to regain adequate staffing levels (teachers, support staff, aides, bus drivers and cafeteria staff), communication will be sent out as soon as possible and provide as much time as we can so families can prepare for a short pause in in-person learning. Therefore, students and staff should be ready to shift to temporary online learning at any time and should take home their materials and equipment each day.

The District's effort to maintain classroom instruction and limit interruptions involves multiple strategies:

- Continue to follow the IDPH recommended layered mitigation efforts to support and maximize in-person learning.
 - Promoting COVID-19 vaccination
 - Consistent and correct use of masks

- Physical distancing
- Screening testing and symptomatic testing
- Increased ventilation
- Frequent handwashing
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Testing and contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of school facilities.

If followed consistently, these strategies allow staff and students to work, and learn with minimal disruptions. A recent scientific study conducted by the Lake County Health Department in partnership with area schools shows COVID-19 transmission within schools can remain low with the implementation of multiple prevention strategies, here is the link for the research on in-school transmission: [CDC: Evaluation of Test to Stay](#)

- All licensed staff including district and building administration will be used to facilitate instruction for those educators that are not available to teach.
- The District is hosting another vaccination clinic for all eligible ages that want a vaccination. Below are the dates/times of the clinics:

Dose 1 Date	Dose 2 Date	Clinic Time	Location	Address
Friday, Jan. 14, 2022	Friday, Feb. 14, 2022	4 - 7:30pm	Antioch High School	1133 Main St., Antioch

● **Pfizer Booster Vaccine Registration Link:**

<https://kordinator.mhealthcoach.net/vcl/1620681786892>

- **Everyone 16+** to receive a booster shot if they are at least 6 months past their initial **Pfizer** vaccination series

● **Pfizer Pediatric Vaccine Registration Link:**

<https://kordinator.mhealthcoach.net/vcl/1640284406238>

- **For patients 5-11 years**

Because we have been on break for the past two weeks, the surge in student and staff COVID-19 infections that the District is currently experiencing is not due to the spread in schools. Most of

the current COVID-19 infections were transmitted outside school facilities. As cited in the Lake County Health Department research article, due in part to the attention and care to mitigations within our schools, infections directly linked to schools are relatively low.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE plan to align with CDC guidance on shortening isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19 for schools. ISBE and IDPH will release updated guidance as soon as possible. In the meantime, please review the [IDPH Health Alert](#) for details on key changes that will take effect soon.

I'm sure you understand that our incredible School Nurses are working hard to meet the increased need for student and staff health care. Please contact the School Nurses only for medical/health related questions, all other questions should be directed to the building administration. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jim McKay
Superintendent



Ignite Passion and Discovery in Every Student
Serving the communities of Antioch, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst and Old Mill Creek
Community High School District 117, being a community of learners with a vision of excellence, is committed to providing an educational experience that encourages all learners to develop to their fullest potential, to engage in lifelong learning, and to be responsible members of society